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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

DOUGLAS SMITH ET AL : EXAMINER: SAUNDERS, D.A.

SERIAL NO. : 09/027,671 :

FILED: FEBRUARY 23, 1998 : GROUP ART UNIT: 1644

CPA FILED: SEPTEMBER 27, 2001

FOR: HUMAN LINEAGE COMMITTED CELL COMPOSITION WITH ENHANCED PROLIFERATIVE POTENTIAL, BIOLOGICAL EFFECTOR FUNCTION, OR BOTH; METHODS FOR OBTAINING SAME; AND THEIR USES

AMENDMENT AND REQUEST FOR RECONSIDERATION

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

In response to the Official Action dated December 5, 2001, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in light of the following amendments and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

Cancel Claims 15-32 and 46.

Please amend the claims as shown in the attached marked-up copy to read as follows:

38. (Amended) A method for obtaining lineage committed human cells with enhanced biological function comprising culturing lineage committed human cells under physiologically acceptable liquid culture conditions, said conditions including replacement of a liquid culture medium at a rate and for a time sufficient to obtain human lineage committed cells with enhanced biological function, wherein said enhanced biological function is relative